

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 8

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2003

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Whereas, on average, another person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two minutes;

Whereas, the Department of Justice reports that 248,000 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2001;

Whereas, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas, children and young adults are most at risk, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

Whereas, sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas, less than 40 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas, two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas, the rate of sexual assaults has decreased by half in the last decade;

Whereas, because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas, aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas, sexual assault victims suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed; and

Whereas, free, confidential help is available to all victims of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist victims of sexual assault: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That—

4 (1) it is the sense of Congress that—

5 (A) National Sexual Assault Awareness
 6 and Prevention Month provides a special oppor-

1 tunity to educate the people of the United
2 States about sexual violence and to encourage
3 both the prevention of sexual assault and the
4 prosecution of its perpetrators;

5 (B) it is appropriate to salute the more
6 than 20,000,000 victims who have survived sex-
7 ual assault in the United States and the efforts
8 of victims, volunteers, and professionals who
9 combat sexual assault;

10 (C) national and community organizations
11 and private sector supporters should be recog-
12 nized and applauded for their work in pro-
13 moting awareness about sexual assault, pro-
14 viding information and treatment to its victims,
15 and encouraging the increased prosecution and
16 punishment of its perpetrators; and

17 (D) police, forensic workers, and prosecu-
18 tors should be recognized and applauded for
19 their hard work and innovative strategies to in-
20 crease the percentage of sexual assault cases
21 that result in the prosecution and incarceration
22 of the offenders;

23 (2) Congress urges national and community or-
24 ganizations, businesses in the private sector, and the
25 media to promote, through National Sexual Assault

1 Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sex-
2 ual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence
3 of sexual assault; and

4 (3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of
5 National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
6 Month.

Passed the Senate April 11, 2003.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.